

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

28 April 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Administrative Officer, DCI

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FROM : [REDACTED]  
Executive Officer, DCI/NI

SUBJECT : Two Questions From the HAC on the 1978  
Congressional Budget Submission

1. An intent to form the Intelligence Advisory Panel was announced by DCI Bush in June 1976. In a memorandum to members of the National Foreign Intelligence Board, Mr. Bush described the purposes and duties of the Panel thus:

One criticism of the current approach has been that national products do not, at any stage in their production, receive a collegial review. This deficiency will be rectified by the creation of an Intelligence Advisory Panel to the DCI.

This panel will consist of approximately three dozen highly-qualified people drawn from a variety of disciplines. The Panel will be recruited from within the Intelligence Community, the non-intelligence components of the Government, and -- to the extent feasible -- the outside world: academia, industry and journalism.

The optimum point for collegial review in the production process is after the basic draft is prepared and before it is circulated for coordination. Consequently, for each NIE/SNIE or other significant national product (deadlines permitting), three people will be picked from the Intelligence Advisory Panel to go over that particular paper in draft.

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- The Panel members involved will meet in Washington and spend whatever time is necessary going over the draft with the NIO, the project chairman and the drafters. They will critique the draft for balance and objectivity, ensuring that it addresses the right questions, is clear and cogent, and takes proper account of ancillary issues and critical variables.
- Membership on the Intelligence Advisory Panel will not entail a large expenditure of time over a prolonged period, but rather a willingness to work intensively for periods of short duration. (The reason for having so large a Panel is to ensure that on any given national product three good reviewers will be available.)

The Intelligence Advisory Panel can also advise the DCI on the overall quality of the national production effort and can engage in that effort the best talent available in the United States. While the Panel will seldom, if ever, meet as a whole, various members of it can and will be convened to participate in seminars or discussion groups critiquing the totality of our effort in various fields.

Although the Panel will be advisory to the DCI, its normal point of contact with the DCI's office will be D/DCI/NI.

2. Formation of the Panel was halted in the fall of 1976 when DCI Bush decided that, with the national elections approaching, it would be appropriate to delay the decisions as to which persons should be invited to join the Panel. When President Ford lost the election, Mr. Bush decided to leave the decisions on the Panel to the next DCI, who now has this matter under advisement along with other improvements that might be made in the estimative process.

3. The Panel is funded in CIA's budget, rather than the IC Staff's budget, because the Panel's functions will have to do with the production of national intelligence, a DCI function delegated to his Deputy for National Intelligence, rather than with product evaluation, which is the province of the Deputy for the Intelligence Community.



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Original - Addressee

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- 1 - File: HAC
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